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From: Ryan M. de la Peña]

Sent: Saturday, July 08, 2006 6:11 PM

To: Charter Commission

Subject: Fire Commission Support

To whom it may concern,

I would like to take this opportunity to provide my support and recommendation for the pursuit and establishment of a Fire Commission for the County of Kauai. The benefits of a Fire Commission as a means of building and fostering trust and integrity in the administration as well as the support and promotion of long range planning for the department is of unparalleled importance. It is extremely difficult for any Mayoral appointee administrator to effectively plan for the direction and growth of the department beyond a four year window. Through the establishment of our seven member commission the planning and direction of the department is more global and definitive and regardless if the chief or administrator should change, the direction or focus will have some assurance of continuity.

Furthermore the Fire Chief will be held accountable for the achievement of identified goals and objectives based on our organizations strategic plan as a means of assuring progress and satisfactory performance. A commission is an excellent conduit for information to flow both internally within our organization as well as externally throughout the community. Commissioners will take great pride in learning about the missions and services of our organization and seize any and all opportunities to support the goals and objectives of our department. The Fire Commission will provide a sense of stability for the organization which is critical for any public safety or emergency service delivery organization to have as our scope of practice and missions constantly evolve and increase. In closing I would like to express my sincerest recommendation and support of the establishment and maintenance of a Fire Commission for the County of Kauai and would welcome the opportunity to provide further testimony or respond to any questions you may have. I would also like to extend the offer of supporting members of our commission traveling to Kauai to discuss their views and perspectives.

Should you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Ryan M. de la Peña